

The ROSSIER Paradox

Colors That Aren't Colors

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The ROSSIER Paradox defines the contradiction at the heart of visual language: how certain entities-gray, black, and white-are universally recognized as colors, despite lacking the foundational attributes of hue and saturation that define color in physics and color theory.

These are not "colors" in the traditional sense. They are achromatic visual states:

- They possess no wavelength.
- They reflect no unique chromatic identity.
- Yet they are perceived, named, and interacted with as if they were colors.

The paradox lies here:

They are "colors" without color-called such only because our language lacks a better name for what they are.

The ROSSIER Paradox exposes the gap between perception and definition, and the limitations of human language to resolve that gap. It is both an oxymoron and a semantic necessity-a placeholder in a flawed linguistic system.

"It is a color in name only-because we have no better word."